

Cameron School District

1000 1/2 N. Main St. Suite 100

Chetek, WI 54829

Phone: 715.735.1234

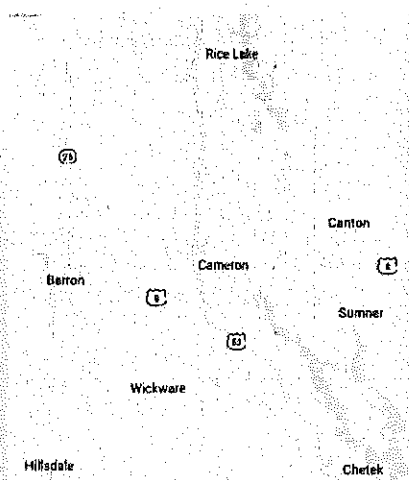
Fax: 715.735.1235

Website: www.csd.wednet.edu



Located at the intersection of HWY's 8 and 53, the School District of Cameron is in the central part of Barron County. Proximity to Rice Lake, Chetek, and Barron gives the community access to several job markets.

The District covers about 65 square miles and has a tax base of approximately \$350,000,000.



Our schools,
students and
staff...

Cameron Elementary (SAGE / AGR School)

61 - Early Childhood/PreK

79 - Grade K

92 - Grade 1

69 - Grade 2

86 - Grade 3

81 - Grade 4

468 total students

1 principal

1 Guidance counselor

Average class size (Grades K-4 = 17.7)

Our schools,
students and
staff...

Cameron Middle School

98 - Grade 5

70 - Grade 6

73 - Grade 7

67 - Grade 8

308 total students

1 principal

80% Guidance

Average class size = 23.7

Our schools,
students and
staff...

Cameron High School

64 - Grade 9

73 - Grade 10

66 - Grade 11

69 - Grade 12

272 total students

1 principal

1 Guidance counselor

20 certified staff

Our charter
schools...

- Cameron Academy of Virtual Education (CAVE)
 - Virtual Charter school that serves approximately 90 students from across the state.
 - 35 of the students enroll from La Crosse area
 - Approximately 5 staff to serve program
- North Star Academy
 - Partnership between Cameron, Barron, Turtle Lake and Chetek-Weyerhaeuser school districts for at-risk students primarily in grades 10-12
 - Serves approximately 50 students on an annual basis

A very traditional staff and setting...

- 1 District Administrator
- 1 Book keeper
- 1 Principal per building w/no A.P's
- 2.8 guidance counselors
- 1 Director of Special Education / School Psychologist
- 1 Director of Instruction / DAC (Position eliminated effective 2018-19)

What is unique about Cameron?

- We have no mental health therapists, no literacy coaches, no interventionists on staff and one resource officer for 4 hours per week.
- We offer no in-house AP courses at CHS.
- Despite our proximity to WITC – Rice Lake and UWBC, our Youth Options and Course Options usage has always been very low.
- We have an open enrollment population of 19% (not including CAVE)
- Total open enrollment – 277 IN / 71 OUT
- Minimal Transportation aid and no Sparsity aid
- Little to no teacher and admin turnover for past 20 years
 - 3 teachers have left to other careers
 - 3 teachers have left to other districts for teaching positions
 - 0 administrators have left

Enrollment is growing...

- 2003 FTE = 808 / Head Count = 861
- 2010 FTE = 865 / Head Count = 1003
- 2017 FTE = 893 / Head Count = 1129
- January 2018 FTE = 910
- January Head Count = 1139
- 32% increase in Head Count since 2003
- 12.6% increase in FTE since 2003

With enrollment on the rise and open enrollment booming what are the issues?

- Cameron has been stuck at the bottom of the Revenue Limit Formula since 1993.
- Currently at \$9337.92 per student
- One of the few districts within the state with a failed referendum in 2017, so we will sit out our 3-years on the recent revenue limit increase.
- We utilized the Energy Exemption process for 2017-18 and 2018-19 in a very responsible manner, but that too is no longer in our tool bag.
- According to WISTAX data, Cameron was 56th from the bottom out of 421 districts in Comparative(educational related) Expenditures at \$9695 per student.
 - State K-12 Average = \$10,758
 - K-12 District High \$20,249
- For nearly 20% of our population, we receive the \$7055 transfer from resident school district

We are working hard to make cuts without impacting students, but few places to go at the present time...

- We have maintained our teaching and aide staffing the works directly with our students, but have made the following reductions since 2001 as it relates to student enrollment
 - Kitchen staff reduced by 21%
 - Principal / Admin reduced by 25%
 - Support admin reduced by 40%
 - Maintenance / custodial reduced by 53%

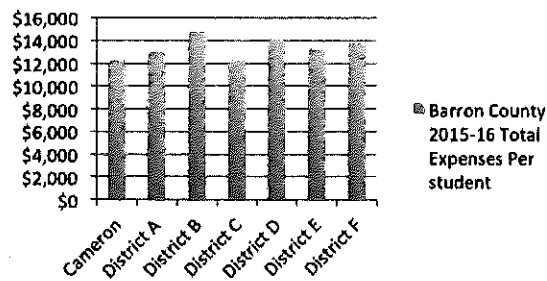
Difficulties keeping the pace...

According to the Wisconsin Taxpayer's Alliance (WISTAX), the Cameron School District has been the lowest spending district per student over the past six years among all Central Lakeland Conference school districts.

Central Lakeland Conference Schools spend
\$1447 *more per student*

Difficulties
keeping the
pace...

Barron County 2015-16 Total Expenses Per student



*On average, all other Barron County schools
spent over \$1250 more per student than Cameron
in 2015-2016.*

Cameron's mill
rate history...

- * 2018-19 \$11.40 (Projected)
- * 2017-18 \$11.83
- * 2016-17 \$11.18
- * 2015-16 \$11.18
- * 2014-15 \$12.73
- * 2013-14 \$10.13
- * 2012-13 \$9.97

Expenditure History

General Fund 10 (2016-17) = \$11,158,075

General Fund 10 (2009-10) = \$9,702,296

\$208,000 per year (2.14%)

SpEd Fund 27 (2016-17) = \$1,496,182 (13.4% of F10)

SpEd Fund 27 (2009-10) = \$1,475,045 (15.2% of F10)

\$3020 per year

Fund 10 transfer to Special Education - Fund 27

2010 Transfer = \$729,840 (49.5% of Fund 27 Expenditures)

2017 Transfer = \$953,758 (63.7% of Fund 27 Expenditures)

SpEd Aidable expenditure history

2014-15 \$1,340,336

2015-16 \$1,154,816

2016-17 \$1,290,584

5% increase in aid = \$63,000 annual on average

General Revenue Sources

General Fund 10 (2016-17) = \$11,008,383

General Fund 10 (2009-10) = \$9,904,251

\$157,733 per year (1.59%)

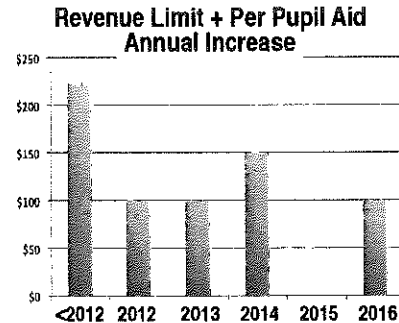
The issues?

- 7-year expenditures @ 2.14% per year
- 7-year revenues @ 1.59% per year
- Staffing trimmed to a bare minimum
- Inability to offer competitive programming
- Overall percent of budget devoted to special education (8.8% Students w/disabilities vs. 13.4% of F10 budget for 2016-17)

Funding historical...

Funding history...

From the year in which revenue limits were imposed in 1993 through the year 2010, the state allowed an average per pupil increase in our revenue limit authority in the amount of \$223.16 per year. In the last five years, the state has increased our revenue limit authority and per pupil aid by a mere \$90 per year on average. This average increase has resulted in an annual revenue increase of roughly \$75,000. This is a mere one-half of one percent (.58%) of our District's budget. This is nowhere near adequate to keep up with annual cost increases.



If we consider the \$200 increase in per pupil funding for 2017-18, it brings the six year average up to \$108.33 per pupil per year.

The added concern related to open enrollment.

The current transfer amount of \$7055 in conjunction with the Revenue Limit disparities creates even larger gaps in what a district can/cannot spend on each student.

Example: Cameron levies \$9338 per resident student and pays District A \$7055 for each student that enrolls from Cameron to District A via open enrollment. Thus, Cameron School District keeps the difference of **\$2,283** for each student that is educated in District A.

District A levies \$11,500 per resident student and pays Cameron the same \$7055 for each student that open enrolls from District A to Cameron. Thus, District A keeps the difference of **\$4,445** for each student that is educated in Cameron.

The added concern related to open enrollment.

In the end, districts that are losing students to open enrollment and also levying higher than average are able to use the funds to invest back into their programming. This will continue to widen the gap in programming between our districts.

There are also districts within the state that keep more for every student they lose due to open enrollment vs. the \$7055 transfer amount.

NOTE: Private school vouchers provide \$7,750 for students in grades K-8 and \$8,390 for students in grades 9-12.

On-going issues in public education...

- Lack of a predictable and sustainable funding mechanism
- Increased and on-going needs for school safety
- Increased and on-going needs to address students/homes with mental health and substance abuse issues
- Teacher, principal and administrator shortages. We need to keep these positions competitive within the job market!

Considerations

- Open Enrollment – Consider a fixed cost for what every district keeps vs. what is paid or create less disparity between high and low Rev Limit districts. Either one will create more equity for the districts that are delivering the instruction.
- Special Education categorical aid – All districts are having to fund more costs associated within special education via Fund 10. This continues to have an impact on programming within regular education. Special Education categorical aid needs to increase.
- Consider more revenue streams, such as the Personal Electronic Computing Grant, where funds are distributed on a per student basis vs. a competitive grant basis. This reduces the loopholes, workload and need to provide additional oversight.

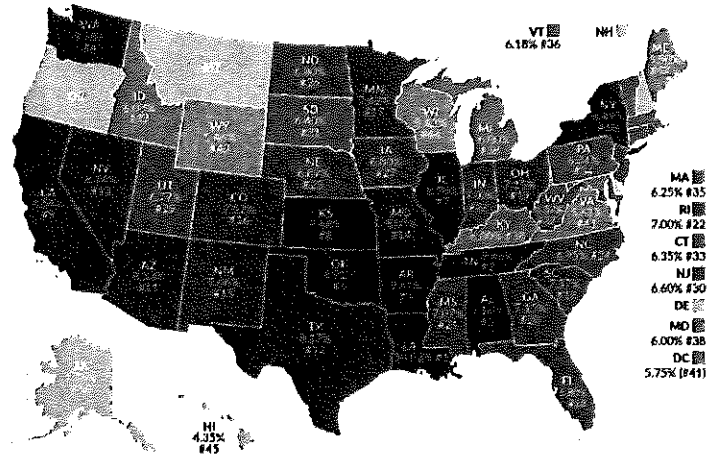
Revenue for public education?

- Most public schools are fighting the same battle for financial resources.
- Pulling from some to help others may create less disparity among our students, but solves little. This will continue to create winners and losers.
- The past practice of placing the burden on property tax will only continue to create a divide between our students and property owners. This is also extremely more complicated in property rich districts with a large number of vacation properties.
- We need a more predictable and sustainable funding mechanism!
- Consider sales tax options to make educational funding sustainable and more predictable.

Sales tax...

<https://taxfoundation.org/state-and-local-sales-tax-rates-2018/>

Combined State & Average Local Sales Tax Rates, Jan. 1 2018



2017-18
Wisconsin
spent \$11.5
billion on
education

- According to WI Department of Revenue, county sales tax (.5%) distributions for FY2017 amounted to \$363.1 million
- Consider to potential impact of a 1.0% additional sales tax
- A 1.0% increase in combined sales tax would move WI from the 6th lowest in the nation in sales tax to 19th

